



## Michigan Chapter Alliance for Community Media

December 13, 2006

I am writing about MB 05-311 on video franchising. The following are our concerns:

Community Access Center's in Michigan are calling for competition without destruction of local, community controlled media.

The proposed rule eliminates incentive for providers to negotiate in good faith. If the local municipality and the provider do not come to agreement in 90 days, the new provider can proceed without agreement. Commercial interests can then make billions of dollars on our public land without considering local needs.

The proposed rule lacks remedies for geographic discrimination. Public, Education and Government Access, or PEG, are tools to engage every local community in the process of democracy. Democratic participation should be for all, not based on a business plan.

The proposed rule reduces the support for PEG, institutional networks and other in-kind services from what is allowed by current Federal law. It is in direct contradiction to language written by the telephone companies and already passed in key states. This reduction would eliminate a valued community resource with no demonstrated effect on either price or competition. This is in fact happening in Michigan at the state level.

The changes being proposed are dramatic and over-step the FCC's authority. We believe that such changes to the law should be made by Congress, not the FCC. These changes will slow competition by confusing the legal framework. Changes to the law should be decided by law-makers, not the FCC.

Thank you for your consideration.

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